

1st Gala a Smash Hit, Nets \$25,000 Leads to February Town Meeting/Open House



20 Heroes, from left to right: Bonnie Zimmerman, Bob Lehman, Alberto Cortes, Jim Ziegler, Tracy Jarman, Carla Coshov, Chris Shaw, Vertez Burks, Todd Stevens, Joyce Marieb, Aaron Borovoy, Carolina Ramos, John Graham, Ben Cartwright, Julia Legaspi, Robert Gleason, Tony Freeman and Tracie O'Brien. (Not shown are Bonnie Dumanis and Bob Nelson)

Lambda Archives' 20th anniversary celebration was quite an event. Gathering on December 8th to honor a few of our community's role models were both leaders and behind the scenes workers from San Diego's LGBT and larger community. Despite the chilling drizzle outside, more than 350 people packed The Center's auditorium, enjoying food and drink provided by Baja Betty's, Lei Lounge, Bourbon Street, Caliph, and Urban Mo's. Prior to the show, folks enjoyed the silent auction while visiting with old friends or making new ones.

The momentum from the Gala also led to the announcement of a February 12 Town Meeting and Open House [see box upper right]. Many attendees of the Gala have never had the chance to visit Lambda Archives, and more curiosity was aroused than could be answered in one festive evening.

Only Six Weeks to Prepare!

The gala's success was doubly pleasing since the final format was set only six weeks prior to the event. After waiting months for a firm date from a national LGBT community star who had committed but ultimately asked to wait until next year, we decided to go forward with our 20 Years, 20 Heroes. Who else but Nicole Murray Ramirez could coordinate and produce such an event in such short order?

Dozens of volunteers worked hard, including students. Students also had the honor of handing the honorees their awards.



It's a full house at The Center.

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TOWN MEETING OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, Feb. 12
6-7:30 p.m.

6-7pm Schmoozing, Refreshments
& Archive Tours

7-7:30 or 8pm Presentation, Q & A
at Diversionary Theatre Building
4545 Park Blvd.

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President's Message

People Making the Archives Thrive by Frank Nobiletti



Frank Nobiletti

First I want to give our deepest condolences to **Kate Johnson**, who has given so much to the Archives and the entire community for so long, and has tragically just lost her son, **Jason**.

To all who made the Gala a great success: Thank you! To the **Gala Working Group** led by **Nicole Murray Ramirez** who in six weeks created a magnificent success. The Gala honored 20 very deserving people, was enjoyed by a sellout crowd, and raised \$26,500 with only \$1,500 expenses. That's less than 6% overhead,

thanks to Nicole's diligence.

Thanks to the sponsors. And what would our community do without the generosity of the **Imperial Court**? And the **Human Dignity Foundation** for its support. Special thanks to **Michael Mack**, new co-owner of Hawthorn's, who saved us at the last minute when the Gala's bar provisions didn't arrive. Michael ran to his establishment, bringing back a replacement set up!

Ultimately I want to thank the people who day after day have created a critical mass for success at Lambda Archives, and thus for the LGBT community:

A nod to **Holly Smith**, the Newsletter editor who volunteered as an undergraduate and continued with such capability and calm. Holly is pregnant. Best to her and husband Sean and their family.

Marc Jones is not only a whiz technically, but a fine writer, and a leader who can strategize, turning visions into reality. And thanks to his partner, Joel — Marc's sustenance; he generously puts up with us!

Thanks **Sharon Parker** for staying on and making the transition easier, as well as the other good things you do.

To **Kelly Revak**, our newly contracted archivist — and to the **special donors** who made her work possible. What is she called in John's article below? "Archivist extraordinaire." And it is truly so.

Can I keep going? I am so proud of our team. **Frank Stefano**, who may even be older than me. Two years ago I called him during a membership renewal phonathon, and urged him to renew. He countered with a valid criticism of the Archives. I responded we were short staffed: "You're right. I wish we had the people to bring us up to your excellent standards. We could really use you; maybe you'd coordinate membership?" Stefano jumped on board, bringing with him a naval officer's sense of order, deadlines and practicality.

Add **Jeri Dilno** (!) now heading Collection Development, **Pat McArron**, webmaster, **Debbie Lou** in grant writing, **Alex Miller-Pastore** videographer and **Dennis Howard** — these are stellar community people. And don't you want to join them? Good. We could use you (see volunteer needs p. 5). Don't you just love working with people who do a great job, who inspire you?

Come to the Open House — meet them!

Karla Castillo



New Board Member

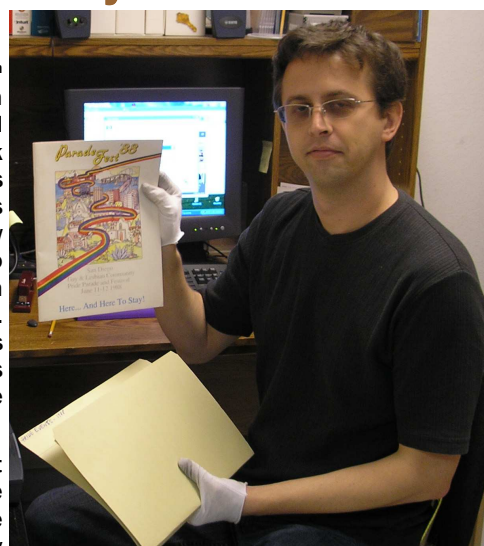
The Lambda Archives Board of Directors has a new member. Karla Castillo graciously accepted the position and plans to continue her diligent

work in making the resources found at the archive accessible to all. Karla first became involved at the Archives in fall of 2004 as a student volunteer from San Diego State University. She has recently worked at the Lambda Archives booth during Pride 2007 as well as creating a detailed inventory with other student volunteers for the online database that will be available soon. She is currently coordinating the LGBT community newsletter collection. Congratulations to Karla Castillo!

Writing Pride's History ... by John Bilow

June 2009 will mark the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, when patrons of a gay bar in New York decided enough was enough and fought back against an unjust police raid. That was the beginning of the modern LGBT rights movement. In the following years, in New York and other cities, people began to commemorate the Stonewall riots with annual marches, parades, and festivals. In preparation for Stonewall's anniversary, San Diego LGBT Pride has undertaken the task of chronicling the history of the San Diego Pride movement.

When I was asked to tackle the project I quickly realized the enormity of the challenge I faced. Too many of the people who have played a part in Pride's history have passed on, while others have simply moved away. Even the ones who fortunately are still here are getting older, and many of them have been quick to admit that their memory isn't what it used to be. Although this made my task all the more challenging, at the same



John Bilow gathers Pride history at Archives.

time it illustrated our pressing need to tackle the project immediately.

Along with preliminary interviews of the people involved **More on page 5**

Archives Welcomes Several New Collections



Jim Ginelli of Stepping Stone displays part of the organization's donated collection.

For many people, the choice to donate their collections to Lambda Archives is a way to ensure that their work is preserved, so future generations will know the past.

Stepping Stone

"I want people to understand where we've come from [in] the GLBT community," Jim Ginelli of Stepping Stone said. Stepping Stone is a non-profit LGBT oriented drug and alcohol recovery agency. This initial accession is primarily from the last five years and consists mostly of photos and posters. Ginelli said that over the past 32 years that Stepping Stone has been in existence the organization has moved many times and many precious items have been thrown away. For him,

donating the collection was a way to keep the past alive and safe from the ravages of time.

Big Mike

"Generations from now, when people look back, [they will realize] we had to fight so hard to be accepted," Big Mike Phillips said. Big Mike's collection consists of numerous clippings, photos, awards he has received, and important records from the organization Ordinary Miracles, which raised funds for people with AIDS in the 1990s. Big Mike felt he had many reasons for keeping a record of the LGBT community. "Even though these people aren't accepted at times, they are still helping the community [at large], not caring if you're straight or gay or black or white, they're working from the heart."

Kate Johnson

Kate Johnson, an instrumental member from the earliest days of the Archives, recently donated a small but very valuable collection to which she will add as time goes on. For example, this collection contains a high-quality original of the iconic photo, well known in the San Diego LGBT community, of the original Gay Center on B Street, with all the staff hanging out the windows and on the roof. The quality of the photo is such that the individuals may be clearly identified. Additionally, Johnson donated an audio copy of Jess Jessop's transition farewell before he died, his written will, and Gary Rees' memorial farewell speech.



Big Mike's birthday bash raised \$3,000 as part of the Imperial Court's pledge. Thank you, Big Mike!



Kate Johnson at Lambda Archives' Gala.

Gala and Open House

From page 1



Gala SDSU student volunteers finally get a moment to relax.

It was clear that those in attendance cared deeply for the 20 Heroes and for Lambda Archives. The audience laughed and cried

watching the interview clips of the honorees in a 35-minute video produced in less than five weeks by our miracle-working videographers, Alex Miller-Pastore and Sean Griffin, who interviewed all 20 Heroes, and Paul Stravinsky, who helped with crucial editing.

Two Standing Oventions

At the conclusion of the presentation the two separate emotional standing ovations, for the honorees and for Nicole Murray Ramirez, were the longest, most loving and appreciative in the memories of many.

That the community would come out so strongly, braving a cold, blustery night, showed us that they understand the significance of the LGBT community's Archives, the heroes, and our history. Financially, the gala was successful in reaching our goal of over \$25,000. Most of this money will be carefully put into the endowment so that essential operating expenses will always be covered.

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Human Dignity Foundation's IT Gift



Marc Jones upgrading the I.T. system as part of the Human Dignity Foundation's gift.



A generous San Diego Human Dignity Foundation grant of \$3,300 makes it possible for Lambda Archives to complete phase two of its goal to place a complete, state of the art searchable catalog of the collections on its website. HDF's grant paid for the server and other hardware required. Many of the software components were gained *gratis*, but the hardware was costly.

The Inventory is Ready

The work of many volunteers has provided the first level of a complete inventory. As soon as one delayed piece of software is delivered the hardware and software installation can be completed and the fundamental inventory can be uploaded. The next stage – detailed Finders Aids and subject indexing for all collections – will take many, many months of work by numerous volunteers. See box of Volunteer needs on page 5. The photo collection must be catalogued as well – a daunting task, since few people put any information of who, what and when with their photos. (Hint, hint.) The basics of the new system should be functioning by August – but already there is an up-to-date collection listing with searchability on line. Take a look: www.lambdaarchives.org.

Online Membership Now Possible!

Lambda Archives is now able to accept membership registration, renewal, and various levels of donations on its website, www.lambdaarchives.org. This new donation and membership payment option is in addition to the mail-in forms. Now Archives' supporters have more convenient options for renewals, memberships, event tickets, etc. Lambda Archives webmaster, longtime community stalwart Pat McArron, has developed an attractive website rich with content with continuous improvements. Take a look!

Gala Brings New Interest

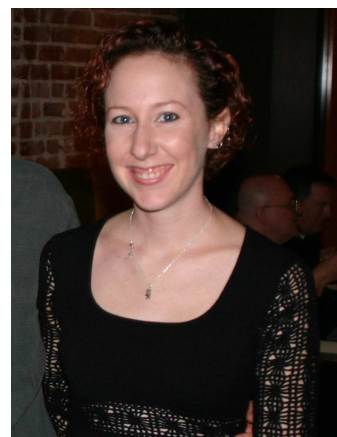
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We did not however, attain our goal of gaining 35 new members at the Gala. Still we have since seen an increase in visits, volunteers, financial support and memberships.

Next: A Town Meeting & Open House

With new visibility comes new interest in Lambda Archives, with lots of questions about its plans, progress, accessibility and finances. We need the community's involvement, both financially and physically, and we welcome discussing at this crucial time our plans and your ideas. So, we are hosting a Town Hall meeting at Diversionary Theater with an Open House and tours of the Archives. Please join us on February 12th at 6:00 p.m. We already know that you care about the community's Archives; we want you to know where we are heading. Please set aside time in your busy calendar to help guide our future. We are so grateful for, and rely on, the care of our community.

Kelly Revak: The Archivist



Kelly Revak, the new head archivist at Lambda Archives, has been contracted to supervise processing of the collections backlog. She was formerly the head of the Berkeley Folklore Archives. We are looking for further grants and donations to allow her work to be extended.

Special Thanks to Our Gala Sponsors!

Baja Betty's, Bamboo Lounge, Bottom Line, The Caliph, The Center, GLT, The Imperial Court, Lei Lounge, PIX, Rage, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, S.D. Fireman's Relief Assoc., Urban Mo's

Special Thanks to Our Gala Working Group!

Council Woman Toni Atkins, City Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez, Tom Felkner, Big Mike Phillips, Jim Ginelli, Stamp Corbin, Brian Lacklen, Lisa Mata, Alex Miller-Pastore, Sean Griffin, Paul Stravinsky, Amber Bargar, Oskar Escalante, Jess San Roque, Bruce Abrams, Shonee Henry, Christopher Galea, Michael Mack, David Cohen, Billy Nordmeier, Lisa Sanders, Megan Yaph, Sharon Parker, Marc Jones, Frank Stefano, Frank Nobilette, Kelly Revak, Cesar Reyes.

TransStories Video Project

Lambda Archives, through the Imperial Court de San Diego's generous 2006 donation, purchased video equipment to further diversify the recording media for oral histories and preserving LGBT events in San Diego. A glimpse of the new equipment's capabilities was seen at the 20 Years 20 Heroes Gala held at The Center in December. A video was put together to honor the 20 influential LGBT San Diegans.

Transgender community member Alex Miller-Pastore coordinated the Gala video project. Miller-Pastore has described a passion for history and documentaries as well as for digital video as his reason for taking on such a large-scale project. He created interview outlines, camera set-up guidelines, and created a storyboard for the final editing process. The project was a great success and showcased the possibilities of video archiving. Now he is on to the next two projects: LGBT Oral Histories and *TransStories*.

TransStories

Tracie O'Brien, coordinator for a local transgender support center, has been working with Alex and others to create a documentary showcasing the transgender community and its history in San Diego. The storyline for the project starts in 1993 with Transaction, the first transgender political/social group in San Diego. TransAction's first major accomplishment was the repeal of the San Diego anti-cross-dressing law. Transgender awareness in the LGBT community has come into its own since then with fervor and excitement. O'Brien and Miller-Pastore will document it.

TransStories will capture firsthand accounts. The project will be put in the Lambda Archives collection and most importantly it will be widely available for the transgender community in general. Shooting for the documentary has already begun and includes Imperial Court events. It will soon document the upcoming 5th annual Transgender Day of Empowerment hosted by The Center on April 4th and presented by the Family Health Center of San Diego's Project S.T.A.R.

Bringing Transgender History to the Hillcrest Youth Center



Enjoying LGBT history at the Hillcrest Youth Center.

Archives Board President Frank Nobiletti led a workshop in Transgender history for the Hillcrest Youth Center in January. Through projecting the Lambda Archives website and the Transgender Timeline (by Austin Czesky) it contains, the workshop led to an hour of lively discussion in the small room packed with young people.

Nobiletti was awed by the appreciation, interest and enthusiasm shown by the youth. The Hillcrest Youth Center and Lambda Archives are planning more collaborative efforts, first a tour of the Archives by Youth Center members. The youth also expressed interest in a monthly reading group in LGBT history sponsored by the Archives and perhaps facilitated by several of the Archives' college student volunteers.



Writing Pride's History

From page 2

over the years, Lambda Archives has played an important part in filling in the gaps of lost people and memories. The information I've uncovered has by itself filled in many details. With the help of archivist extraordinaire Kelly Revak, I've uncovered old Pride flyers, programs, newspaper stories, photos, and such memorabilia as T-shirts, buttons and bumper stickers.

Working on the history of San Diego Pride has been like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. Interviews with people involved have enabled me to put together the border, and some of the obvious shapes, but the Archives has helped fill in the sky and many of the smaller details. I've spent so much time at the Archives lately, I'm thinking about asking for my own key, and a little cot in the back.

Lambda Archives Needs Volunteers!

Specialized skills:

- Sketch Artist/Cartoonist
- Graphic Artist
- Lawyer (copyright)
- Lawyer (bequests, wills, etc)
- Translators- German, Spanish, Tagalog
- Hardware/Software Assistant
- Photographers
- Grant writing
- Writers
- Accountant
- Bookkeeper
- Custodial/Cleanup
- Correspondence Secretary
- Signing/ASL Interpretation
- Sound System Install/Repair
- Exhibit/Display

- Identifying and Cataloguing
- Community Photo Collection
- Fundraising

Committees:

- Collection Development Committee
- Collection Processing Committee
- Membership Committee
- Pride Committee
- Display Committee
- Newsletter Committee
- Video Team
- SD LGBT Community Newsletters Committee

Call (619) 260-1522 and leave message for Frank Nobiletti or go to www.lambdaarchives.org

Lambda Archives is open more hours than ever before! More than half the days of every month!

Open **Thursdays 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. & Friday to Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.** Come see what's new!

Closed Valentine's Day and Holiday weekends

Membership Application & Donations:

Join us!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

- | | | |
|--|-------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Major Donor | \$250 | Business Membership: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member | \$120 | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Couple | \$180 | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit \$60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Member | \$25 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Couple | \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Limited Income \$15 |

In Addition to my membership above I would like to make a contribution of \$ _____ for:

- Endowment fund
- General operating fund
- Other _____
- Contact me about volunteer work



Membership \$ _____
Contribution \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to Lambda Archives address listed below.

Lambda Archives is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and all monetary donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Board of Directors:

Frank Nobiletti	President
Frank Stefano	Treasurer and Membership
Marc Jones	Recording Secretary Collection Processing and IT
Sharon K Parker	Past President
Karla Castillo	LGBT Community Newsletters

Contact Info

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Newsletter Credits:

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Photo credits p1: Pix (Hale Media)	



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